But the subject cannot be too often or too fervidly and strongly thrust upon the notice of builders, architects, and the public, till the change take place,—a change which, converting lodgers into tenants, and bringing builders or other owners face to face with these—the great majority of real occupiers or tenants—and sweeping away the middlemen who at present profit by the one at the expense of the other, cannot but prove a *capital* speculation, and well worth all the little additional trouble of collecting separate rents, in place of risking the whole in the hands of one who has no real right, and often as little inclination, to stand between the landlord and his virtual tenants.

I am Sir, &c., J. E. D.

LIVERPOOL ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

On Wednesday evening, in the week before last, the recently instituted Architectural and Archæological Society held its first meeting for the present session at the Royal Institution, Liverpool. In the absence of the worshipful the mayor, who is president of the association, Mr. J. A. Picton, one of the vice-presidents, occupied the chair. There was a large muster of members, the small meeting-room being filled in every part.

The Chairman, after some congratulatory remarks on the auspicious opening of the session, glanced briefly at the many advantages which such an association would be likely to confer. He then called attention to three paintings by Mr. Howard, part of a series to adorn the gable end of the Grammar School at Preston, the subject being illustrative of British history from the introduction of Christianity to the close of Elizabeth's reign.

Carnarvon Castle.—Curious Details.—The Chairman said he had gone over to Wales a few days ago to rusticate, and was glad to find that it was at a period when the Cambrian Archæological Society held its meeting at Carnarvon. He attended the meeting. All the leading antiquaries of Wales were present, with Sir Stephen Glyn in the chair. Dr. Petrie attended as a deputation from the Royal Irish Academy: several gentlemen from England were also present, amongst them the Rev. C. H. Hartshorn. Many interesting papers of course were read, and several excursions were made. One of the latter was to the ancient Roman town and camp of Seguntium, where some excavations and discoveries were made. Mr. Hartshorn subsequently read a paper on Carnarvon Castle. He had gone through the various records which are kept in the Tower, and the chapter-house at Westminster, and from old Latin documents, with quaint and difficult abbreviations, had extracted full and complete details as to the building of Carnarvon Castle. The results of his researches were opposed to all previous histories upon the subject. It had always been stated in guide books and histories that the castle had been built in one year, the year after King Edward I. had conquered the Welsh, and that he had sent his queen here to be delivered of a prince, and even the room the prince was born in was pointed out. Those present were surprised to hear that the entire story was a fable. So far from the castle being built in twelve months, as asserted, its erection had extended over thirty-eight years; and so far from Edward the Second being born in the Eagle Tower, as alleged, the foundation was not laid till he had become a man, and it was actually built by himself! Nay, more: Mr. Hartshorn was able to tell the date of the building of each tower, the cost of the stone, the labourers' wages, and even what was paid for the cramp-irons which fastened a figure of Edward the First to the wall. The wages of that period, it appeared from the documents, were a penny a-day for masons: a man who watched from the top tower (no doubt from his being so much exposed) got 2d.; and the master mason, or clerk of the works, was rewarded with 1s. 6d. a-day, that being equal to about ten shillings of our modern money.

Bebington Church.—Mr. Charles Reed, the secretary, read a paper on the history, as gleaned from its architecture, of Bebington Church, in Cheshire. It was determined, it appeared, that before the close of last season the members of the Liverpool Archæological Society should make an excursion together to some place of architectural and antiquarian interest, and Bebington Church was chosen. Although the day selected for the examination was wet and unfavourable, from twenty to thirty of the members met at the church, and busied themselves with tracing, sketching, and drawing the various architectural peculiarities of the interior; and the result was a number of etchings now laid on the table, and the paper read by Mr. Reed. A discussion on the age and character of the mouldings, construction of the roof and tower, character of the tracery, comparison of the peculiarities in this and other edifices, &c., followed, and the meeting then adjourned.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

St. Paul's Church, Brighton, built by subscription, was opened on Wednesday week. It contains 1,200 sittings, 700 free, and cost about 7,000*l.*, exclusive of the spire.——The contract for pulling down and rebuilding Holy Rhood Church, Southampton, has been entered into with Mr. Burton, of London. Messrs. Mee and Webb are the architects. The pulling down is to be forthwith begun. ——The coffer-dam and excavations for the Plymouth Great Western Docks, are in a very forward state.——The Cheltenham petition in favour of the Health of Towns Bill has been numerously signed by rate-payers, and the Suppression of Nuisances Act is to be forthwith put in force.——The authorities of Stourbridge are taking active measures to improve the sewerage of the town, by repairing the culverts, and laying down others in localities where the drainage has hitherto been neglected.—— The Darcy aisle of All Saints Church, Maldon, has lately been enriched by the insertion of a memorial window of painted glass, designed and executed by Clutterbuck, of Stratford, Essex.——St. Chad's Church, Lichfield, having undergone an extensive repair and enlargement by rebuilding the north aisle, with a hundred and twenty free sittings, at a cost of nearly 800*l.*, was re-opened on Sunday week. ——The new docks at Sunderland are proceeding in a rapid manner. The sea has been banked out of the tidal basin and nearly the whole length of the large dock, and the whole, it is thought, will be completed within the time fixed, and within the estimated cost.——Two wretched old houses lately fell in Cathedral-lane, Dublin, burying seventeen persons, five of whom were killed on the spot.

MASONS' STRIKES.

"THE MASONS OF LONDON PROTECTION SOCIETY."

Sir,—Circumstances having lately arisen which have tended materially to injure the building trades, we allude to the four-o'clock movement, to obtain which many strikes have taken place, and much work brought to a stand, and the baneful effects of these strikes having been severely felt, more particularly among "masons," a society has been established, denominated "The Masons of London Protection Society," the objects of which are to endeavour to remove these abuses from the trade (for strikes are decidedly "abuses"), and also to provide a fund for the purpose of assisting those of its members who may be out of employment during the inclemency of the winter season, instead of expending its funds in supporting useless, injurious, and unjust strikes.

The masons' trade has ever been considered, and still is, the foundation of all other trades. It is not, therefore, stone-masons' interest only to protect its welfare, but the interest also of the various branches of the building community. We may likewise see that the effects of its prosperity or adversity will ever be felt by the community at large, for when stone-masons' work flourishes, so also must carpenters', bricklayers', plumbers', painters', glaziers', slaters', plasterers', and from these again many other trades and occupations,—the brick, stone, and land merchants, and a hundred other important features, too numerous to enumerate: and as it is from its operatives that the principal portion of the wealth of this nation flows, it is important that this trade should prosper, that with it may prosper all trades.

We feel assured that those political economists who complain so much of money spent upon public works, were they philosophically acquainted with the nature and effects of trade, might discover that they themselves are in some indirect manner benefited by the expenses of which they complain. What can therefore be more reasonable and laudable in the English nation, than to expend its money in promoting industry, for industry will ever be found to be productive of public health, and to act as a stimulus to morality, things now so necessary; and while it is the duty of those in power to protect and support trade, it equally behoves the employed to adopt such measures as shall protect their own interests, and to remove every obstacle that may have a tendency to obstruct the welfare of trade.

Nothing can be more repugnant to the feelings of employers, than to have certain conditions dictated to them, by which they are bound to abide; and yet not to the feelings of employers alone, but to all, for few of us like to be dictated to, even by superiors, and it has been proved not once but often, that employers will rather make a great sacrifice of property to their own disadvantage than yield to an unreasonable demand.

This society considers it will be far better policy on its own part to make use of its funds for a philanthropic and laudable purpose, by giving pecuniary assistance to those of its members who may be, in the winter season, unfortunately thrown out of employment, than to give countenance to, and expend them in supporting, what never has been and never will be productive of good results, viz., "*strikes*."

This society, therefore, is determined to discountenance everything in the shape of strikes, feeling assured that such proceedings have ever been and will still prove, if persisted in, to be not only detrimental to the prosperity of trade, but disgraceful to those engaged in them.

I am, Sir,
On behalf of the "Masons of London Protection Society."
Your obedient Servant,
WM. JENKINS, Secretary.*

New Books.

The Assistant Engineer's Railway Guide, containing Instructions for setting out the Lines and Levels of Railway Works, in Cuttings, Embankments, and Permanent Way; Bridges and Viaducts, on the Square, on the Skew, and on Curves; with numerous Notes, Tables, and practical Office Rules for designing or calculating the Strength of Railway Works in Stone, Brick, Wood, or Iron; Tables of Earthwork Sectional Areas and Gradients. Illustrated by upwards of 120 woodcuts. By W. DAVIS HASKOLL, C.E. To which have been added Ten Sets of Experiments on the Strength of Materials: by GEORGE RENNIE, Esq., F.R.S., M.I.C.E.; and 3 plates and specification, illustrative of the Construction and Details of the laminated Arch forming the Bridge over the Ouse, on the East Anglian Railway: J. S. VALENTINE, Esq. Part. II. Williams and Co., Strand.

A Familiar Explanation of the higher Parts of Arithmetic; comprising Fractions, Decimals, Practice, Proportion, and its applications, &c., &c.; with an Appendix, designed as an Introduction to Algebra. By the Rev. FREDERICK CALDER, B.A., Head Master of the Grammar School, Chesterfield. London: Whittaker and Co. Cambridge: Deighton. Chesterfield: Gallimore.

THE title-page of the first of these works being sufficiently explanative of the design of the author to obviate the necessity of even offering a preface to the work, may well excuse us from further allusion to this point. As to the carrying out of that design, or the merits of the book itself, little consideration is requisite to shew that it is a laborious production, full of sensible advice, and varied precautionary detail, sustaining the merits of the foregoing Part, which has already established for itself a character for practical utility.

We may have other opportunities of

* All communications respecting this society to be addressed to the secretary, No. 4, Stangate, Lambeth.

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